

REMARKS/COMMENTS

Claims 1-25, 38 and 43 have been canceled. Claims 26-37, 39-42, 44 and 45 and new Claims 46-48 remain active in the case.

The present invention relates to a composite oxide powder which is useful as a catalyst support.

Claim Amendments

Claim 32 has been amended to delete the requirement that the mixture has been calcined at 600° C for 5 hours or at 800° C for 5 hours. It has been further amended to simply state that the composite oxide powder when calcined at 600° C for 5 hours has a porosity such that pores in the size range of 3.5 to 100 nm in diameter have a volume of 0.13 cc/g or more and that when calcined at 800° C for 5 hours has a porosity such that the pores in the size range of 3.5 to 100 nm in diameter have a volume of 0.10 cc/g or more. Claims 44 and 45 have been similarly amended.

New Claims 46-48 correspond to Claims 32, 44 and 45 respectively and, in addition, each contains process language that is supported by paragraphs [0052] to [0062] of the text. Entry of the amendments to the claims and the new claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants emphasize that in providing a proper description of the invention in the claims, the description of the claims should be understood to state that each of the calcination treatments of 600° C and 800° C is an endurance test which is conducted to evaluate the properties of composite oxide powders, which is apparent from Figs 3-5 of the application which show the results of measuring the pore volumes of the composite oxide powders.

Application No. 09/987,262
Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.114

It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for consideration on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "FD Vastine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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